place the ordinance has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 26-11-1992.

Distribution of Primaquin to check the spread of Malaria in Delhi

1416. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :

SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the "Times of India" dated 30th October, 1992 under the heading "MCD's malaria pill can be deadly";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the intake of Primaquin which is freely distributed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in some residential areas of Delhi has caused adverse reaction; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to stop indiscriminate distribution of this drug ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is understood from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi that as a special case Primaquin was distributed in scheduled doses in limited number of population in Vasant Kunj. However, no adverse reaction is reported to have been caused by the distribution of the drug.

(c) There is no indiscriminate distribution of this drug—it is being distributed only in a limited number of population.

Legislation to Regulate Refraction Spectacle Dispensing and Contact Lens Fitting etc.

1417. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation to regulate the practice of refraction, spectacle dispensing and Contact Lens fitting, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of Government to legislate on the area of refraction, spectacle dispensing and contact lens fitting. Health is a State subject and it is for each State to regulate the practice as considered necessary as well as provide health education to the public.

Increasing Cases of Poliomyelitis

1418. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of Poliomyelitis has gone up sharply this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what corrective steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) to (c) There has been a marginal increase in the incidence of poliomyelitis in the current calender year 1992 as compared to 1991. This is partly due to the cyclical peak attained by the disease in the current year and partly due to improved surveillance.

Apart from sustaining and intensifying the routine immunization services, States have undertaken mop up operations for increasing the coverage levels and are also undertaking containment measures in the pockets of high incidence.

Aids Infection

1419. DR. SANJAYA SINH :

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of men and women who have been found to be infected by HIV in this country during the last 3 years and till date;

(b) what is the present number of people infected with AIDS virus in each State; and